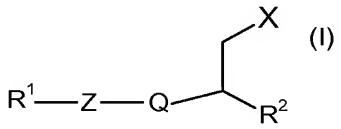
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

R^1 is optionally substituted -C_{4-12} alkyl, -C_{2-10}alkylcycloalkyl, C_{2-6}alkylheterocycloalkyl, -C_{2-6}alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, ~~with the proviso~~ **provided** that R^2 ~~in~~ **is** not pyridinyl;

Z is a bond, CH_2, O, S, SO, SO_2, NR^4, OCR^4R^5 or CR^4R^5O; or Z, R^1 and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

Q is ~~an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring~~ **unsubstituted phenyl**;

X is ~~COR^3~~ **COOH**;

R^2 is $CONH_2$ ~~, CO_2H, CO_2R^7, SO_2R^7 or $SO_2NR^8R^9$~~,

~~provided that R^2 is not CO_2R^7, when X is $CONH_2$;~~

R^3 is OR^6 or NR^8R^9;

R^4 and R^5 each independently is H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl;

R^6 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^7 is C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^8 and R^9 each independently is H or C_{1-6} alkyl; or R^8 and R^9 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which ~~may~~ optionally include**s** 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N; or

physiologically functional derivatives thereof

~~provided that formula (I) compounds are not:~~

~~[3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;~~

~~butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl] ; or~~

~~butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]~~; and

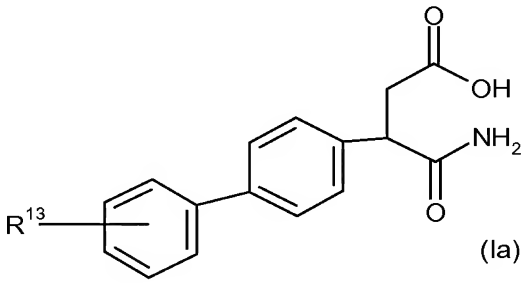
further provided that when R^1 is C_{4-12}alkyl, Z is other than a bond, O or CH_2~~, or physiologically functional derivatives thereof~~.

2. (**Cancelled**).

3. (**Cancelled**).

4. (**Currently Amended**) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ **according to** claim 1, wherein Z represents a bond or O.

5. (**Currently Amended**) A compound ~~as claimed in~~ **according to** claim 1 of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein:

__R^{13} is H, halo, CF_3, -OCF_3, cyano, nitro, OR^{14}, SR^{15} or COR^{16}; and

__R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} independently are H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl; or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

6. (Cancelled)

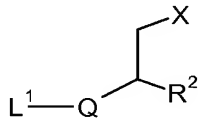
7. (**Currently Amended**) A method for ~~the~~ treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from ~~or susceptible to~~ an inflammatory disease or an autoimmune disorder, which ~~method~~ comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in~~ **according to** claim 1.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (**Currently Amended**) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound ~~as claimed in~~ **according to** claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (**Previously Presented**) A process for preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, wherein the process comprises:

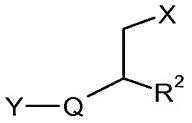
(A) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is a bond and R^1 is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^2, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L^1 is a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R^1; or

(B) (i) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is O, S, SO, SO_2, NR^4 or OCR^4R^5, by reacting a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^2, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and Y is OH, SH, NHR^4 or $HOCR^4R^5$, with a compound of formula (IV):

$$R^1L^2 \qquad \text{(IV)}$$

wherein R^1 is defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L^2 represents a leaving group; and

(ii) wherein Y is –SH, optionally followed by oxidizing the Y group to the corresponding SO or SO_2 group as required; or

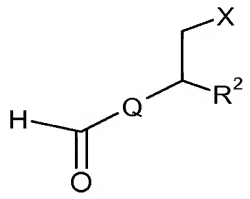
(C) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is $-CR^4R^5O-$, by reacting a compound of formula (III), wherein Y is –OH, with a compound of formula (V):

$$R^1CR^4R^5L^3 \qquad \text{(V)}$$

wherein R^1 R^4, R^5 are defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L^3 represents a leaving group; or

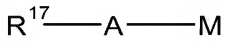
(D) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is CH_2 and R^1 is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting

(i) a compound of formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein Q, X and R^2 are as defined above, with an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl nucleophile, which is a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein A is a 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, R^{17} is H or one or more substituents and M is a metal and

(ii) reducing and eliminating ~~of the~~ a resultant or product alcohol formed form step (i); and,

(E) optionally deprotecting compounds of formula (I) with a protecting group.